

James Hill to George Washington, July 2, 1773, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

YORKE COUNTY 2d July 1773

SIR/

I have been very uneasey relative to the Shiping the Tobo. since I have recd your instructions to put 10 on board Eastin but yr. Letter got Misaid in ye. Office for I applyd the 25th or 26th of May & the young Man Appeared to be at a stand But at last said there was None & Capt. Peterson hastend me to put what Tobo. I had on board immediately & by your Shiping to no other Person last year Made Shure you intended it all for the same agn. as Easten Applyd last year & ye let him have none for I have put my Self to a Great deel of Trouble since I got your Instructions for Just as I returnd from up the Country from havg. an Acct of the flat being loaded there was abt that Qnty. left & I immediately after recg. yr. Letter went up to Stop that Qnty. but was two Late which hope it will Make no Great difference with you As I have Acted & don for ye best—The inclosed is the Wt. & Numbers of the Tobo. yt. was shipd; at the time I sent & took the Wt from Litlepages Trowers Tobo. Was not put on Board only one & there was one Hhd of Richd. Streets yt was not heavey Enough wch I had Reprised to a 1000 Which is since Shipd & Trowers too & one Hhd of Hanover Tobo. for the Rent of that Land in Hanover 1005 Nt. to ye Best of my Recolection I woud have sold it in ye Country but they gave me a Tollerable Carrecter of it & Tobo. Sold Low; I had Purchased the overseers Tobo. Before your letter got to hand at 2d the Tobo. in New kent & Davenports in K Wm. the overseers below did not care to

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take that Price & agreed to take what Wm Graves Gave the overseers in that Estate which is not yet settled—Joseph Davenport & my Self had some Conversation when I was up last respecting his Lay he has Always had the 8th of what was made in Corne & Tobo. & a 3d of the Butter wch I refused Givg. & he desired it might be Referred to you & that he hoped you woud not think of Alterring his Lay the agremt with what men I have employ d has been A Shair for Every 8 hands & he thinks its two little & Likewise what part of Butter you woud think of Givg as you have A list of the Hands & there Ages please to give me yr Opinion he says you know what Business he left to come in your employ—You desire me to inform you how our Crops come on I think they are tollerable Considg. the Poverty of the Land & the Sickness of the people I am in Hopes to make a Crop of wheat but have had the most Trouble with my Harvest I ever had in all my life the people at Mill Quarter has lost a perdious deel of time with the Measles which has put that Plantation much behindhand I expect to make a very Good Crop my own Place where I live I am in hopes of makg between 4 & 5 Hundred Bushls. wheat & our oats are pretty Good but not in yet, I sew d 35 Bushels at home & Near that Qnty. at the Quarter over the mill our wheat is much Better below than above our Corne is Low & the Tobo. all Standg. Very well & looks Very well only Small we have some Just a comg in the Top—

I woud have Sent you an Acct of the Tobo. Shipd before this but have Waited for to know if the Eastenshore Tobo. was come over I spoke to Capt. Peterson at KWilliam Court & it was not come then & he informed that he had his load for some time & only waited for that Tobo. which woud fill him up & they wrote me from the Easten shore that Wilkins Vessell was Expected in Every day which woud be Sent of immediately with the Tobo. which was abt. the 10th. June & I have tryed Every Vessell that I saw at the Capt. Landg. & coud not get one some two small in ye Hole & those yt. were larger Were otherways engaged & no one on the Easten shore will undertake but Wilkins there Vessells Genally two Small but hope he wont let us meet with Another Disappointmt. as he promisd a second time at ye last meetg as he had disapptd. Last he woud be shure to send it now however Capt. Peterson said if it came too late for him they had another Ship in Jas. River which he

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woud have it sent on board of her, I wrote over yesterday to know the reason of its not comg. tho much Expect it is on board but had not an oppertunity of Seeg the Capt since K WmCt Relative to an Invoice Please to look at the Last years invoice & Qnty. of Ognabgs fell short 80 Ells wch was obliged to Purchase & 20 yds. of Cotton there woud abeen Cotton Enough or near it but the man I got to Cut out Cut Several Suits two Small which will do for this year & as I shall have a good deel of Woollen Cloth Spun hope we shall have some negro Cotton to spare & as you Sent for no Blankets must have it Cut up into Blankets for the wenchs with Child & those who have young Children & make it go as far as it will & as to Nails hoes & Rakes &c there was Just Enough & not any to Spare I have sent you a list of what other Nessaryes I think will be wantg. or what I can at this time recollect—the above I wrote yesterday & Sent to town for yr. Letter on Saterdag mornng. & in answer you desire I will give year to what yr. Direction Which by that you think I have Invented a falcity abt. the yr Letter being Mislaid in ye Office as Ive above Mentiond I applyd the 25 or 26 of May & they Sd. there was none for which reason I supposed you Intended the Tobo. to go as it did Last year to Cary & Copy. & as to followg. yr. Direction there is no man has ever endeavoured to come up to any Direction more then I have to yrs in Every respect, & there is no man Borne that has undergone more to Serve you & the Estate then I have done & as to a falcity I Scorne to tell one as much as any man Breathg., which I told you when I took the Business that if you thought I did not answer every Purpose I was willing to give up to those you thought answered the Business Better, it was no advantage to me to Send the Tobo. contrary to your Instructions I last year told you that Capt Easten applyd for abt. 10 Hhds wch you Sd. you formerly let him have the Easten Shore Tobacco but if you think Proper for me to continue I never will ship one Hhd. without yr. Direction nor woud not now only the Capt desired I woud make all the Despatch I Possably coud & I expected you was to ye Norw,d & by my Getg. no Instruction thought it might be a disappointmt to wait till you returnd

I have had the Misfortune to Loose the Miller dyed a saterdag last which obliges me to put one of the old Carpenters old ned which by his Character when he was there Before I came

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in ye Estate was not approved of by the Custommers therefore I think it the Best way to Continue him Till the Mill is rebuilt this fall as the Person employd Will be Idle while the Mill is buildg.—I am Likely to Make a Tollerable Crop of wheat & whether you woud like of my Geting of two wheat Fans to clean the wheat I think to the Best of recollection Colo. Syms told me his was 5£5 or there Abts. wch I did not care to Engage two of them till I acquaintd you wch please to direct whether I must get one for the upper Plantations & one for the Lower; I have been so busily Engaged for this fortnight Past with my Harvest the people provg. Sickly & the rest so very Auquord that I have been fateauged almost out of my Life that I at this time Recollect nothing more then if Mrs. Washgton & yr Self woud let nanny & her Famyly Come down as its so vastly Ilconvenient at these Busy times to spare a boy & horse to send the cloaths up to be made as She cant Spin that wench Better that you were Lookg at when at the white house I have [had her] down & put her under the Doctor & she begd to go up to see her Children & she ant able to go into ye Crop so she is a spinner & thought they did not do so much there as if they were down & proposed Bringg. ym down & it seems like death to them to be removed wch I think if they were down it might be an advantage to ye Estate for the Teemsters & Spinners all to be up there dont do half as much as to be down

Yr. Very Hble Servt. JAMES HILL